(b) if so, by when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) (a) and (b) Besides a high power (1 KW) TV transmitter, which is functioning at Imphal, a TV Studio Centre has also been made technically ready there The Centre can, however, be commissioned into service only after the requisite manpower needed for production of programmes as well as operation and maintenance is in position

Cost of Production of Steel

2038 SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE Will the Minister STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether the cost of production of steel in India is much higher than in the developed countries,

(b) if so the details of production costs in India and in other developed countries and

(c) the steps the Government are contemplating to reduce cost and to become competitive in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) and (b) As no authentic information on the cost of production of steel in other countries in available, it is not possible to compare the cost of production in those countries with India

(c) Steps taken/being taken by the main producers to contain cost of production in India include raising capacity utilisation, increasing productivity, improving techno-economic performance including energy saving, and improved maintenance and modernisation of equipment

The recent deregulation of prices of iron and steel would also result in enhanced efficiency and international competitiveness in the steel sector, leading to cost reduction

Per Capita Assistance for Tourism in Kerala

2039 SHRI K KURALEE DHARAN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the per capita assistance given to Kerala by the Union Government for development of tourism in Kerala during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) The Central Department of Tourism does not extend financial assistance on the per capita basis The total amount sanctioned for various projects/schemes sanctioned during the last three years (till date) for development of tourism in Kerala was Rs 350 00 lakhs

Modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant

2040 SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have drawn any modernisation plan for the Rourkela Steel plant to augment the production,

(b) if so, whether any additional Blast Furnace will be commissioned as a part of the modernisation programme

(c) whether the turn-over of the plant will be affected by the modernisation, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) Government approval for the implementation of modernisation Phase-